

Council  
on  
Hemispheric  
Affairs 3/18/82

AH642

March 18, 1982

Jose Pico, First Secretary  
Embajada de Argentina  
1600 New Hampshire Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20009

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify: (☐) In Part (☐) In Full

(☐) Classify as \_\_\_\_\_ (☐) Extend as \_\_\_\_\_ (☐) Downgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Sir:

It has come to our attention that a U.S. citizen, TONI AGATINA MOTTA, disappeared in Argentina in August, 1980, after having entered the country with a former Montonero guerrilla, SALVATERA PRIVITERA. The circumstances of her disappearance were relayed to us by Ms. Motta's brother, Robert, who has asked that the U.S. State Department and your office do everything possible to determine the fate of his sister.

The relationship between Mr. Privitera and your government is a matter of record -- he was released from imprisonment with the understanding he would not return to your country, an understanding which he violated. The consequences which that entails are a problem of Mr. Privitera. But the fate of Ms. Motta is very much a matter of our concern. She entered the country legally travelling on her U.S. passport, she had no record of having transgressed the laws of the Argentine government, and yet she appears to have suffered whatever fate was accorded Mr. Privitera. Judging your country's past record in this type of situation, we do not expect ever to see Ms. Motta alive.

We do, nonetheless, wish to forward our urgent appeal that your office do what is possible to determine the facts surrounding her disappearance. I will refer you to this morning's article in the Washington Post which advertises a new attitude on the part of your government about the "desaparecidos." The case at hand represents an opportunity to demonstrate the authenticity of that claim.

We will be publishing within a week a full account of Ms. Motta's history, and what efforts her family has made thus far to clarify her whereabouts. You will receive a complimentary copy.

Yours Sincerely,



J. Michael Luhan, Editor

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